

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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R 221755Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3491

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4128

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PO

SUBJ: RISING LEVEL OF VIOLENCE

SUMMARY: PAST WEEK HAS WITNESSED HIGHEST LEVEL OF VIOLENCE
IN PORTUGAL SINCE APRIL 25 REVOLUTION. ALMOST 50 SEPARATE
INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED, MOST IN THE NORTH
LEAVING TWO DEAD AND SCORES INJURED. VIOLENCE REVEALS BOTH
CAPACITY OF PS AND PPD TO PUT PEOPLE IN STREETS AS WELL AS
INABILITY OF MILITARY OUTSIDE LISBON EFFECTIVELY TO CONTAIN SUCH
VIOLENCE ON SUCH WIDESPREAD SCALE. MORE VIOLENCE PROBABLY IS
IN STORE. END SUMMARY.

1. SOCIALIST (PS) AND POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PPD) ATTEMPTS TO
PUT PRESSURE ON THE AFM THROUGH STREET DEMONSTRATIONS AND
AGGRESSIVE COMMUNIST PARTY EFFORTS TO BLUNT THIS HAVE COMBINED TO
PRODUCE THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN PORTUGAL SINCE THE APRIL
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25 REVOLUTION. BELOW IS A DAY-TO-DAY SUMMAR OF INCIDENTS OCCURRING

DURING PAST WEEK.

2. JULY 12 RIO MAIOR

--PCP AND FSP HEADQUARTERS SACKED.

JULY 14 RIO MAIOR

--COPIES OF "DIARIO DE LISBOA" AND DIARIO POPULAR" SEIZED AND BURNED BY CROWD ANGERED BY JOURNALISTIC DISTORTION OF THE PREVIOUS DAY'S EVENTS.

JULY 16 LOURINHA

--SEVERAL HUNDRED PERSONS ATTACKED PCP HEADQUARTERS, BUT CAUSING LITTLE DAMAGE BEFORE BEING DISPERSED.

JULY 18 LOURINHA

--SEVERAL HUNDRED PERSONS DESTROYED PCP HEADQUARTERS, BURNED BOOKS AND FURNITURE, AND ATTACKED ON PCP MEMBERS.

OPORTO

--PCP AND MDP PROPAGANDA BOOTHS BURNED IN CENTER OF TOWN.

--PCP HEADQUARTERS BROKEN INTO BY DEMONSTRATORS.

--RADIO CLUBE PORTUGUESE ATTACKED; COPCON INTERVENTION PREVENTED ANY SERIOUS DAMAGE.

--"DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" OFFICE BROKEN INTO AND DAMAGED.

--SEVERAL INJURED IN CLASHES BETWEEN PCP AND PS AT ROAD BLOCKS OUTSIDE TOWN.

AVEIRO

--LARGE CROWD, INCLUDING SMALL BUT SIGNIFICANT MOZAMBICAN REFUGEE ELEMENT, ATTEMPTED TO DESTROY PCP HEADQUARTERS BUT WAS STOPPED BY COPCON.

--SAME GROUP PROCEEDED TO DESTROY INTERSINDICAL HEADQUARTERS. INTERSINDICAL VEHICLE BURNED.

BATALHA

--VIOLENCE BETWEEN PARTISANS DURING VOTING FOR THE ELECTION OF A NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE

--CROWD ENTERED A HOTEL UNDER WORKER CONTROL AND BEAT UP SEVERAL WORKERS. INTERSINDICAL OFFICIAL INJURED.

--CARS TRANSPORTING LISBON PAPERS STOPPED; PAPERS BURNED.

LECA DE PALMEIRA

--BOMB EXPLOSION AT FEC HEADQUARTERS, LITTLE DAMAGE.

CADAVAL

--ATTACK ON PCP HEADQUARTERS.

JULY 19 AVEIRO

--7,000 PEOPLE ATTACKED PCP HEADQUARTERS, COPCON INTERVENTION
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PREVENTED DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY OR INJURY TO PARTY MILITANTS. SOLDIERS ALSO STONED BY CROWD.

--DURING ABOVE INCIDENT, SOLDIER WAS SHOT AND KILLED. DEATH PROBABLY ACCIDENTAL.

--DESTRUCTION OF OFFICES OF LOCA INTERSINDICAL AFFILIATED UNION. MATOSINHOS

--MARCH ON CITY HALL BY MEMBERS OF LOCA NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE MET BY COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION; ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR BATTLE ENSUED. 14

INJURED, SOME WITH GUNSHOT WOUNDS.
--CROWD TURNED ON MDP HEADQUARTERS, DESTROYING IT.
--PCP HEADQUARTERS STONED.
--BOMB DISCOVERED AND DISARMED AT FEC HEADQUARTERS.
CALDAS DA RAINHA
--PPD MILITANT STABBED AND KILLED IN PARTISAN CLASH DURING
DEMONSTRATION.
COIMBRA
--PASSING CAR TRADED SHOTS WITH MILITARY ROADBLOCK
--CAR IN PS MOTORCADE HIT BY MOLOTOV COCKTAIL; TWO INJURED
MINDE
--PCP WORK CENTER ASSAULTED.
VALENCA
--PCP HEADQUARTERS DESTROYED.
--MDP HEADQUARTERS ASSAULTED.
ILHAVO
--PCP WORK CENTER DESTROYED.
CADAVAL
--"PROGRESSIVE PARTY" (UNSPECIFIED) HEADQUARTERS DESTROYED;
MILITANTS BEATEN.
PORTO DE MOS
--"PROGRESSIVE PARTY" (UNSPECIFIED) HEADQUARTERS DESTROYED;
MILITANTS BEATEN.
FASE
--ASSAULT ON UNSPECIFIED PARTY HEADQUARTERS.
VALE DE CAMBRA
--PCP HEADQUARTERS BOMBED. (SOURCES IN OPORTO INDICATE BOMB MAY
HAVE BEEN PLANTED BY PCP THEMSELVES.)
ESTARREJA
--PCP HEADQUARTERS ASSAULTED.
SACAVE
--SEVERAL PS-PCP CLASHES AT CHECKPOINTS.
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--PS MILITANTS STONED SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS MANNING VARIOUS
CHECKPOINTS.
OLIVEIRA DE AZEMEIS
--CITY HALL ATTACKED.
--MES HEADQUARTERS ASSAULTED.
MONCHIQUE
--CITY HALL ATTACKED.
JULY 21 ALCOBACA
--CITY HALL OCCUPIED IN MORNING
--UPON INSISTENCE OF DEMONSTRATORS, SOLDIERS SEARCHED PCP
HEADQUARTERS, FOUND WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION. CROWD RANSACKED
BUILDING AT NIGHT DESPITE EFFORTS OF MILITARY AND TWO PCP MILITANTS
WITH GUNS. FIVE WOUNDED.
VALE DE CAMBRA
--EXPLOSION AT PCP HEADQUARTERS. LIGHT DAMAGE.

CASTELO BRANCO

--ATTEMPTED ASSAULT ON PCP HEADQUARTERS AVERTED BY MILITARY.

MINDE

--PHYSICAL CLASHES BETWEEN PS AND LEFTISTS.

ESPINHO

--MEN ARMED WITH MACHINE GUNS RAN MILITARY ROADBLOCK. NO INJURIES.

VILAR FORMOSO

--RADIO TOWER USED FOR AERIAL NAVIGATION DESTROYED BY DYNAMITE CHARGE;

3. COMMENT: SHARPLY INCREASED VIOLENCE OF PAST WEEK PROMPTS

FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS:

--VIOLENT ACTS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY AGAINST THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND GROUPS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH IT IN THE POPULAR MIND, E.G. MDP-CDE AND INTERSINDICAL.

--VIOLENCE HAS CENTERED LARGELY IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF THE COUNTRY, TESTIFYING TO ITS ESSENTIALLY CONSERVATIVE AND ANTI-COMMUNIST TENDENCIES.

--INABILITY OF PCP TO PROTECT THEIR OFFICES AND MILITANTS IN THE NORTH REVEALS THEIR WEAKNESS IN THE REGION.

--INABILITY OF MILITARY TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH WIDESPREAD CIVIL DISORDERS HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED, AS HAS, MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, THE LOWERED RESPECT AND IN SOME CASES OUTRIGHT HOSTILITY TO MILITARY BY SIGNIFICANT PART OF POPULATION.

--MORE INCIDENTS MUST BE ANTICIPATED AS PCP AND ALLIES ON LEFT CONTINUE TO ORGANIZE AND SUPPORT PRO-AFM RALLIES AND
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PS AND PPD CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE IN SUPPORT OF "DEMOCRATIC WAY TO SOCIALISM." PCP STREET TACTICS, E.G. ROAD BLOCKS AND COUNTER-DEMONSTRATIONS, AND AGGRESSIVENESS OF MILITANTS ON BOTH SIDES ENSURE THAT MORE VIOLENCE IS IN STORE.

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